Commissioning and Operation

Connecting the printer

Overview connectors
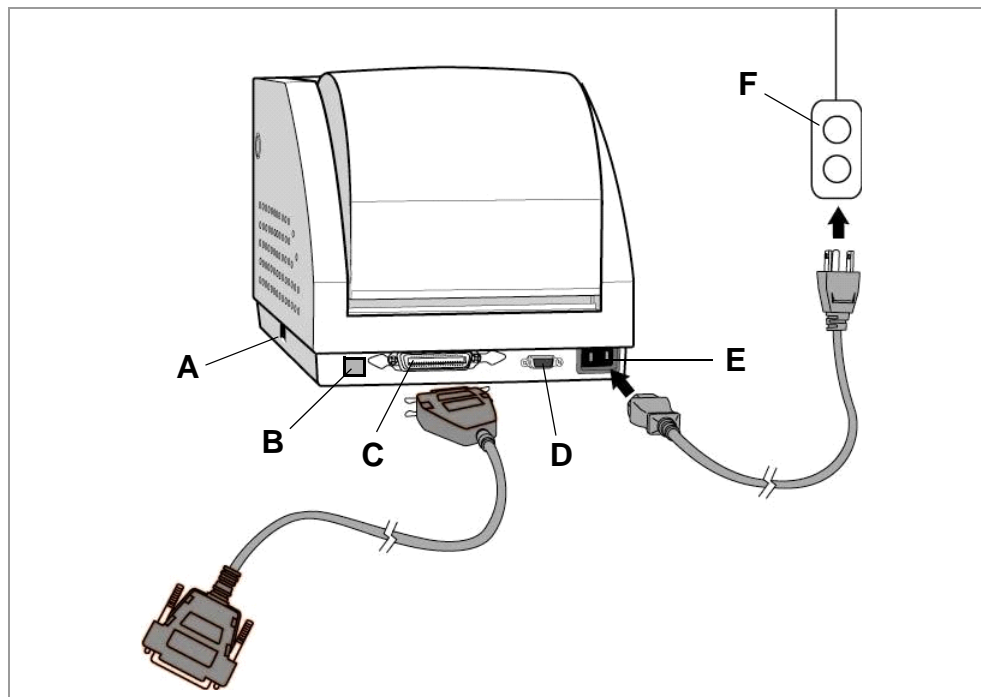
[1]   Printer connectors (rear side of the device).

- *Centronics* connector (parallel port) [1C]
  For parallel port connection. Mostly it is connected to the printer port of a PC.

- RS232 connector (serial port) [1D]
  For serial port connection. Mostly it is connected to the COM. port of a PC.

- USB-Anschluss [1B]

- AC power socket [1E]
  For AC power connection.

Connecting the printer

> ⚠️ WARNING!
>
> Printer is driven by mains voltage! Touching of live parts can cause life-threatening body currents and burns!
>
> ➜ Make sure, that the printer is switched off, before connecting the power cable.
>
> ➜ Only connect the printer to a power socket that provides the correct voltage, which can be found on the rating plate.
>
> ➜ Only connect the printer to a grounded power socket fitted to authorized standards.
>
> ➜ When laying the power supply cable, ensure that:
> – no one can trip over it.
> – no one can step on it.
> – the power supply cable can be pulled out of the power outlet, if necessary.

1. Leave the power switch [1A] at the "O" Position.

2. Connect the power supply plug to the power jack [1E] and the other end of the cord to your AC outlet [1F].

3. Connect the printer with any standard Centronics cable to the parallel port of the host computer and to the Centronics connector [1C] of the printer.

➠ Alternatively, you can connect the printer as follows:
– With a serial cable to the RS232C port of your computer.
– With a USB cable to the USB port of your computer.

Operator Controls
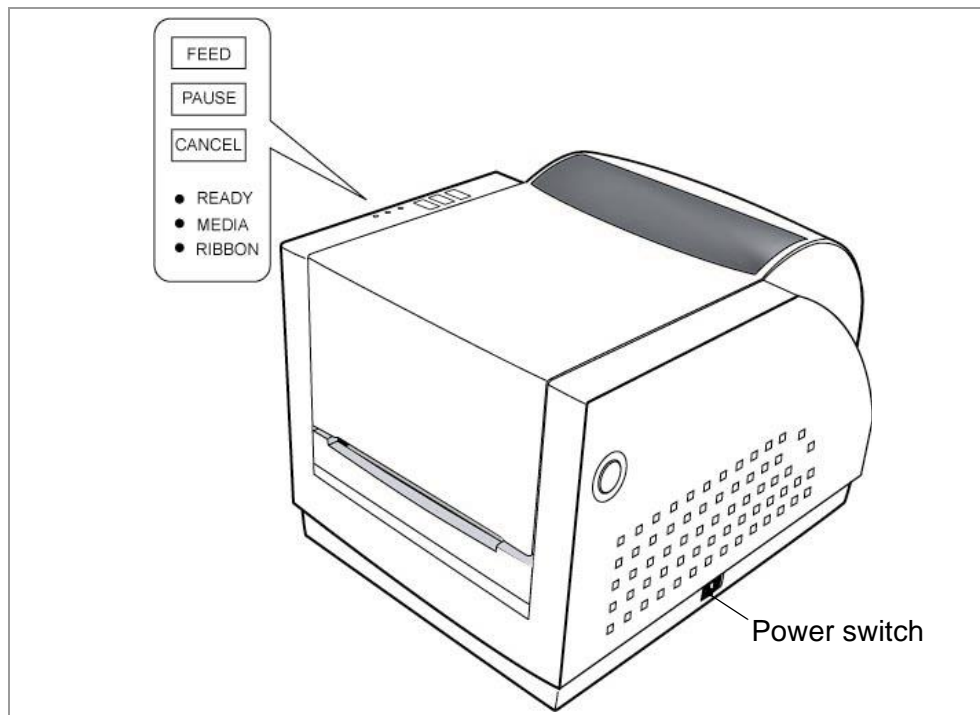
[2]   Operator controls of the printer.

Buttons

There are three buttons [2], each having two basic functions.

BUTTON	Pressed at normal status	Pressed during power-on
FEED	Feed a label.	Perform a self test for configuration report.
PAUSE	Stop the printing process Resume the printing job after press it again.	Perform the media calibration.
CANCEL	Interrupt and delete the printing job. Force the printer to continue working after an error had been solved.	Reset the settings at E^{2}PROM.

[Tab. 1]   Overview buttons.

- FEED Button

The FEED button forces the printer to feed one label when printer is idle (not printing) or if in PAUSE state.

Holding down the FEED Button then turning on the power switch, the printer will perform a self test and a configuration report will be printed.

- PAUSE Button

  The PAUSE Button stops and restarts the printing process in normal operation. If the PAUSE button is pressed while printing is in progress, the printing stops once current label is completed. Press this button again to restart the printing.

  Holding down the PAUSE Button then turning on the power switch, the printer will perform the media sensor calibration.

- CANCEL Button

  The CANCEL Button interrupts and deletes the current printing job. If there is an error indication occurs, pressing this button to cancel the error indication.

  Holding down the CANCEL Button then turning on the power switch , the printer will perform a system reset , all the parameters which are stored in EEPROM will be rest to default value.

LED indicators

There are three LED indicators on the front panel, "READY", "MEDIA" and "RIBBON". These indicators display the operation status of the printer.

LED	Meaning
READY	The READY indicator will remain lighted except if any of the following conditions prevail. - Receiving data from host - A fault condition
MEDIA	The MEDIA indicator will remain on for the normal operation of the printer. - The printer is at PAUSE state - Blinking – Media run out (READY will be also blinking)
RIBBON	ON - under thermal transfer mode with ribbon installed. OFF - under direct thermal mode. (No ribbon installed) Set by Windows driver or command. - Blinking - Ribbon run out (READY will be also blinking)

[Tab. 2]   Overview LED indicators.

Basic Operations

Printing a Configuration Report

1. Turn off the printer. Press and hold the FEED button.

2. Turn on the power.

3. READY indicator blinks, release FEED button.

4. The printer will perform a self test and print out a configuration report [3].

5. READY indicator stops blinking and lights up.

6. The following information will be printed on this report.

➠ After self test the printer will enter character dump mode. For normal operation press the CANCEL button to stop dump mode.

```
Entering dump mode

Label Printer with Firmware PPLA R2A0-1.00 052302
RS232 : 2400. 8 DATA BITS. NONE PARITY. 1 STOP BIT
STANDARD RAM: 2097152 BYTES      USASCII
AVAILABLE RAM: 1054272 BYTES
THERMAL TRANSFER
LABEL COUNT: 13                  1 M
FLASH MEMORY: ON BOARD
CHECKSUM: 0000
LAB LEN(TOP TO TOP): 38 mm.   304  0  8000  3000  0000  001F
MEDIA SENSOR LEVEL: 3            REFLCT. SENSOR


This is internal font 0  0123456789 ABCabcXxx
This is internal font 1  0123456789 ABCabcXyz
This is internal font 2. 0123456789 ABCabcXyz
THIS IS INTERNAL FONT 3. 0123456789 ABCABC
THIS IS INTERNAL FONT 4. 012345678
THIS IS INTERNAL FONT 5. 012345678
THIS IS INTRNL FONT 6
This is internal font 7. OCR-A ABCabc
0123456789
ASD Smooth font (6 points) - 0123456789 ABCabcXyz
ASD Smooth font (8 points) - 0123456789 ABCabcXyz
ASD Smooth font (10 points) - 0123456789 ABCabcXyz
ASD Smooth font (12 points) - 0123456789 ABCa
ASD Smooth font (14 points) - 0123456789
ASD Smooth font (18 points) - 012
Courier Fonts:
  R8/E94/PC/PCA/PCB/LG/GK/RUS
```

[3]   Configuration report.

Some information in the configuration report are important, please check them after the self test:

Item	Meaning
Printer programming language	The printer programming language is listed on the first line of the report . There are two different languages (PPLA and PPLB), Please check for correct version.
CHECKSUM	The CHECKSUN of the FLASH ROM is listed on the eighth line, It should be 0000.
Media height:	The height of the media (label paper) is list on the second line from the end. Please check this value if the height of the media is less the 2 inches (50 mm). The listed value should be very close to the height of the media plus the height of one gap, otherwise the calibration of media sensor is required.
Label count and length	This message shows the number of labels and length has been printed since it was produced at factory.

[Tab. 3]   Items on the Configuration Report.

Performing a Calibration

After the media loaded, it is necessary to do the calibration for the label size detection.

1. Press and hold the PAUSE button. Turn on the power.

2. MEDIA indicators will blink, at this point release Pause button.
   The printer will feed the labels for 12 inches.
   MEDIA indicators stop blinking and remain illuminated.

   During the media calibration, 12 inches of media will be fed out. MEDIA indicators will be blinking for few seconds during calibration is proceeding. Then turn on printer again after the calibration is completed. Without the proper calibration, the gap detection will not stable especially for the small labels (less than 2.0 inches in height).

   After the calibration, all the related parameters will be stored in the EEPROM which is located on Main board.

▸ This procedure is very important and must always be carried out after installation and every time the media type is changed. Failure to do so will result in the gap and label-empty detection being incorrect.

Performing a Factory Reset

If you would like to reset the printer to its factory defaults after certain commands have been sent or settings changed:

1. Turn off the printer.

2. Turn on the power. Press and hold the CANCEL button.

3. Ribbon indicator blinks, release the button.
   Ribbon indicator stops blinking and lights up.
   The following parameters automatically reset.
   – Label parameters
   – Heat(Darkness)
   – Speed
   – Symbol set (language)
   – Others for specific interpreter

➠ All settings stored in non-volatile E^2PROM cannot be destroyed even by turning the printer off.

➠ It is necessary to perform label sensitivity calibration after resetting.

➠ The printed label count can not be reset.

Driver Installation

Selecting a driver

Two printer drivers are delivered with the printer, each in different versions for the following operating systems:

- Windows 95
- Windows 98
- Windows 2000
- Windows NT 4.0
- Windows XP

The drivers are referred to in the following as „Standard Driver" and „USB Driver".

USB Driver

Install the USB Driver, if:
– The print jobs are supposed to be sent via USB interface.
– The AP 3.4 is supposed to be operated with the optional keyboard, independent of a host computer.

Standard Driver

In all cases, which are not mentioned under „USB Driver", it is recommended to install the Standard Driver and the layout software „NiceLabel".

- Installing drivers: See the following paragraphs.
- Installing label layout programs: see section Installing the label layout program ⬈ on page 11.

Installing the Standard Driver

Requires the Adobe Reader to be installed on the computer.

[4]   CD „Printer Documentation".

1. Insert the CD „Printer Documentation" [4] (is delivered witih the printer).
   The CD starts automatically.
   The window „Printer Documentation" opens.

2. Click „Printer drivers and label software".
   The selection window „NiceLabel SE CD" opens.

3. Click „Installl" and then „Printer Drivers".
   The installation wizard welcomes you.

4. Follow the instructions of the installation wizard.

5. If you are requested to select a printer type, note the following:
   – Click „AP 3.4 PPLA" for an AP 3.4 with Datamax interpreter.
   – Click „AP 3.4 PPLB" for an AP 3.4 with Eltron interpreter.

6. Further follow the instructions of the installation wizard.
   The driver files are copied to the computer.

7. If you are back to the selection window „NiceLabel SE CD", click „Back" and
   then „Exit".

8. Close the Adobe Reader.

Installing the USB Driver

1. Insert the CD „Label Printing Software" (is delivered with the printer).

2. At the computer, click *Start > Settings > Printer and fax devices*.

3. Click *File > Add printer*.
   The installation wizard welcomes you.

4. Follow the instructions of the installation wizard.

5. If you are requested to select a printer type, click „Have disk".
   A file selection dialog opens.

6. Select on CD the file „\Utilities\AP34\WINDOWS Driver\ BS\oemprint.inf",
   where OS stands for the Operating system on your computer.

7. Further follow the instructions of the installation wizard.

Installing the label layout program

Xbar

⮡ Is required for the standalone operation of the printer with a keyboard (option) connected.

1. Insert the CD „Printer Documentation" (is delivered witih the printer).

2. Go to folder „\Utilities\AP34\Xbar Labelprogram"and start the „*.exe"- file which is stored there.

3. Follow the instructions of the installation wizard.

NiceLabel

1. Insert the CD „Printer Documentation" (is delivered witih the printer).
   The CD starts automatically.
   The window „Printer Documentation" opens.

2. Click „Printer drivers and label software".
   The selection window „NiceLabel SE CD" opens.

3. Click „Installl" and then „NiceLabel".
   The installation wizard welcomes you.

4. Follow the instructions of the installation wizard.